

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action dated January 18, 2008. Claims 24, 26-29, 32, 34-38, 40, and 43-44 have been amended, claims 22, 23, 25, 30-31, 33, and 45-46 have been canceled; as such claims 24, 26-29, 32, 34-38, 40, and 43-44 are now pending in this application. Claims 24 and 32 are independent claims. Reconsideration and allowance is requested in view of the claim amendments and the following remarks.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment. Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowed dependent claim 25. Dependent claim 32 have each been amended to incorporate the allowed subject matter of dependent claim 33. Claims 26-29, 34-38, 40, and 43-44 have been amended to remove their dependence on the cancelled claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates that claims 25 and 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant notes that these claims are allowable in their own right, and not simply for the reasons set forth in the Office Action.

Applicant submits that independent claims 24 and 32 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 35 and 33. Therefore, it is submitted that amended independent claims 24, 32, and any dependent claims are allowable in view of the Examiner's previous consideration of allowability of the subject matter added to these claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 22, 23, 24, 26-32, 34-38, 10, 43-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0036723 in view of Eguchi et al.

By this amendment, each of independent claims 24 and 32 has been placed in allowable form. Accordingly, the rejection as to these claims, and to those claims dependent thereon, is now moot. Furthermore, claims 22, 23, 25, 30-31, 33, and 45-46 have been cancelled.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2826 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 14, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Ronald P. Kananen

Registration No.: 24,104

Christopher M. Tobin

Registration No.: 40,290

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC

Correspondence Customer Number: 23353

Attorneys for Applicant